



BOROUGH OF CONGLETON.



REPORT

ON THE

**Health and Sanitary Circumstances
of the Borough**

FOR THE

Year ended 31st December, 1949.



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Medical Officer of Health—Cyril Dove Cormac, M.A., B.M., B.Ch., D.P.H.

Senior Sanitary Inspector—Harold Street, Cert. R.S.I.

Assistant Sanitary Inspector—J. E. Holden (Resigned Dec. 1949)

To the Mayor, Aldermen, and Councillors of the Borough of Congleton.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have pleasure in presenting to you my Annual Report upon the Health and Sanitary circumstances of the Borough of Congleton during the year 1949, which is the first complete year since the National Health Service Act came into operation.

My combined appointment as Divisional Medical Officer and Medical Officer of Health has enabled the environmental health services administered by you to be co-ordinated to the fullest extent with those health services provided by the Cheshire County Council. I have therefore included in my Report details of the Public Health Services administered by both authorities.

I wish to express my thanks both to you, to other officials of the Council and to my staff for the help and co-operation which I have received throughout the year. I also acknowledge with thanks the assistance given to me by the Sanitary Inspector and the Surveyor in compiling my Report.

I beg to remain,

Your obedient Servant,

C. DOVE CORMAC,

Medical Officer of Health.

SECTION A.

*Statistics and Social Conditions.**Extracts from Vital Statistics.*

Estimated population ... 15,360

Births

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Live births	{	Legitimate ...	242	124	118
		Illegitimate ...	13	5	8
Still births	{	Legitimate ...	6	3	3
		Illegitimate ...	1	1	—

Live birth rate per 1,000 estimated average population mid. 1949 16.6

Live birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population 16.7

Still birth rate per 1,000 total (live and still) births 26.7

Still birth rate per 1,000 total population 0.45

Still birth rate for England & Wales per 1,000 total population 0.39

Infantile Mortality.

The total number of deaths is shown as follows:—

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Legitimate	...	...	8	3	5
Illegitimate	...	...	1	—	1

This gives an infantile mortality rate of 35.3 per 1,000 live births.

Infantile mortality rate for England & Wales 32

Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births 33

Illegitimate infants per 1,000 illegitimate live births 77

Deaths

			Total.	Male.	Female.
Deaths, all ages	...	...	230	108	122

Death rate per 1,000 estimated average population 14.9

Death rate for England & Wales per 1,000 of the population 11.7

The following table shows the deaths from all causes within the district during the past year :—

Cause	Total	Male	Female
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers ...	0	0	0
Cerebro-spinal fever ...	0	0	0
Scarlet fever ...	0	0	0
Whooping Cough ...	0	0	0
Diphtheria ...	1	0	1
Tuberculosis of respiratory system ...	4	2	2
Other forms of Tuberculosis ...	0	0	0
Syphilitic diseases ...	0	0	0
Influenza ...	2	0	2
Measles ...	0	0	0
Acute polio-myelitis and polio-encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Acute influenzal encephalitis ...	0	0	0
Cancer of buc. cav. and œsoph (M) uterus (F) ...	2	1	1
Cancer of stomach and duodenum ...	9	6	3
Cancer of breast ...	6	0	6
Cancer of all other sites ...	20	12	8
Diabetes ...	3	0	3
Intracranial vascular lesions ...	26	9	17
Heart diseases ...	60	29	31
Other diseases of circulatory system ...	8	5	3
Bronchitis ...	15	6	9
Pneumonia ...	6	4	2
Other respiratory diseases ...	2	2	0
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum ...	2	2	0
Diarrhœa under 2 years ...	2	1	1
Appendicitis ...	0	0	0
Other digestive diseases ...	5	1	4
Nephritis ...	6	1	5
Puerperal & post-abortion sepsis ...	0	0	0
Other maternal causes ...	1	0	1
Premature birth ...	2	1	1
Congenital malformation, birth inj., infant dis. ...	2	0	2
Suicide ...	1	0	1
Road traffic accidents ...	2	2	0
Other violent causes ...	4	2	2
All other causes ...	39	22	17
Totals ...	230	108	122

Deaths from Puerperal and Maternal causes :—

			No. of Deaths
Puerperal Sepsis	...		0
Other Maternal causes	...		1
			—
Total	...		1
			—

The Maternal Mortality is 3.8 per 1,000 live and still births.

There was no unusual or excessive mortality during the year calling for special comment.

SECTION B.***General Provision of Health Services for the Area.******Care of Mothers and Young Children.***

One Infant Welfare Centre is situated at Congleton. Infant Welfare sessions are held weekly and Welfare Foods are available at cost price for those who attend.

Ante-natal sessions are held twice monthly, and Post-natal sessions monthly.

Health visiting is carried out by two nurses on the staff of the Cheshire County Council.

Statistics.

<i>Welfare Centre</i>		New Cases		Total Attendances		No. of Clinics held	Cases seen by Doctor
		0-1	1-5	0-1	1-5		
Congleton	...	133	13	1613	688	48	976

Specialist Clinics :—

<i>Ophthalmic Clinic</i>		New Cases	Total Attendances	No. of Clinics held
Congleton	...	1	4	12
<i>E.N.T. Clinic</i>				
Congleton	...	8	9	7

At the Day Nursery owing to overcrowding it became necessary to restrict the number of children on the register to 40. All applications for admission are now considered carefully by the Maternity and Child Welfare Sub-Committee of the Divisional Health Committee, and priority of admission is given in certain cases.

Midwives.

Three midwives employed by the Cheshire County Council practice within the Borough.

Home Nursing Service.

Two District Nurses are resident in Congleton and the Home Nursing Service, formerly carried out by voluntary committees, is now provided by the Cheshire County Council.

Vaccination and Immunisation.

Early in the year sessions for immunisation against Diphtheria were completed in all schools. Immunisation against Diphtheria and against Whooping Cough, and vaccinations have been carried out by Doctors at their surgeries, at home and at the Welfare Centre.

Statistics.

Diphtheria Immunisation.

Age 0 to 4	...	...	171
Age 5 to 14	...	...	44
Reinforcing Injections		...	18

Whooping Cough Immunisation.

All age groups	10
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Diphtheria and Whooping Cough Combined Immunisation.

All age groups	9
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Vaccination :—

Primary Vaccination.

Age 0 to 4	33
Age 5 to 14	7
Adults	4

Re-Vaccination.

Age 0 to 14	...	...	Nil
Age 5 to 14	...	...	Nil
Adults	...	...	8

Ambulances and Transport.

Before the Cheshire County Council took over this service under section 27 of the National Health Service Act, the ambulance owned by Congleton Corporation was manned by members of the County Police. After the "appointed day" the service continued as previously, but the ambulance became the property of the Cheshire County Council. In January, 1949, the Chief Constable intimated his intention to withdraw members of the Police Force from ambulance driving. The Divisional Health Committee considered that it would be too costly to engage full-time drivers and attendants and arrangements were made with Messrs. S. Bourne & Sons (Taxi Proprietors) to provide a 24 hour service of drivers and attendants. They became responsible for providing garage accommodation and carrying out minor repairs. This method of administration was found to be economical and the service provided by Messrs. S. Bourne & Sons has been carried out in a highly efficient manner. Sitting-case Cars are also available for the transport of patients where necessary. The majority of sitting-cases from Congleton have been conveyed by taxi and the Hospital Car Service, operating from Macclesfield, have conveyed the remainder.

Calls for Ambulances and Cars have been rising steadily in spite of efforts to check abuse.

Prevention of Illness, Care and After Care.

As the control of Tuberculosis presents a most pressing problem, the Divisional Health Committee have formed a Care and After Care Sub-Committee to undertake certain aspects of this work.

Domestic Help Service.

Under section 29 of the National Health Service Act, the Cheshire County Council provide a Home Help Service for persons who are ill or lying-in, for expectant mothers, for mental defectives, for aged persons and for children not over compulsory school age. One permanent Home Help has been appointed for work in Congleton while part-time Home Helps have been employed according to need. A charge is made for this service in accordance with income.

SECTION C.

Sanitary Circumstances of the Area.

Water.

Whilst the town's water supply has been of satisfactory quality, it has been far from adequate in quantity. Demand has increased both from industry and from the erection of new houses. Leakage from burst water mains and drought have further reduced the supply. Nearly the whole town has been without water at night and even during the afternoons the supply has on occasions been curtailed owing to complete emptying of the storage tanks.

The latest chemical analyses and bacteriological examinations of the Forge Supply show the water to be of satisfactory quality, good physical properties and possessing an average hardness of 30 degrees. Chlorination is carried out by duplicate Bell's manually controlled gas-chlorine apparatus to the pump suctions, giving a residual chlorine reaction of not less than 0.1 part per million, one hour after addition. No softening treatment is carried out.

The Corda Well supply is reported to be of excellent organic and wholesome bacteriological quality, but possessing a "reaction" which is potentially plumbo-solvent. The extent of the plumbo-solvency has yet to be ascertained. The installation of a Shunt Feed type Chemical Sterilizing equipment has been completed on this supply, since the last Report, and is functioning satisfactorily, giving the required immunity to the water, from bacteriological pollution.

The Buglawton Bore Hole supply has maintained its exceptionally high organic purity and wholesome bacteriological quality. The water is plumbo-solvent, with an initial PH value of 5.2, but this is corrected by dosing with Soda Ash and subsequent raising of the PH value to a sustained figure of 7 to 7.5.

Work on the Hug Bridge water supply, which will ultimately deliver one million gallons per day to the existing water towers, is maintaining satisfactory progress. The one million gallon capacity reinforced concrete reservoir and the 12" dia. pumping main are now

completed, apart from minor details of construction, and the Contract covering the laying of the 12" delivery main is about to be advertised. It is estimated that the latter will be completed by the end 1950, but the installation of pumping plant and other apparatus will cause further delay before this supply is available.

During the year regular samples of water were taken by the C.W.S. Creamery at their premises, for their own information. Regular tests were carried out by their area Chemist for both chlorine content and bacteriological quality. Results of these tests were made available to the Borough Surveyor and have been most helpful in enabling him to regulate the chlorine dosage necessary to maintain a satisfactory degree of bacteriological purity.

The number of samples of water which have been forwarded to the County Analyst for his examination is as follows:—

High Level Supply	...	2
Low Level Supply	...	2
Buglawton Old Supply	...	2
Corda Well Supply	...	2
Buglawton Bore Hole Supply	...	2

Generally, all samples proved to be of satisfactory quality from both chemical and bacteriological points of view.

It is estimated that 14,350 of the population received water direct from the public supply, with a number of houses supplied by means of stand-pipes. Scattered houses in the Rural areas still obtain their water from springs and wells sited within their own curtilage, but as soon as the Hug Bridge supply is available, it is proposed to extend the town's mains to provide them with a piped supply.

Drainage and Sewerage.

During the year, the existing sewerage system was extended to cope with the erection of 67 houses on the Parson Street Estate. As a result of the erection of new houses and expansion of industry in the Borough, the extension of the present Outfall Works is a matter of urgency to avoid overloading, and to eliminate the ever present possibility of polluting the River Dane. An outline scheme is in preparation, for submission to the Ministry of Health, and the sewerage of the West Heath area will be incorporated in the Report.

The improvement and enlargement of the Outfall Works involves the erection of an extra Sedimentation Tank, new Humus Tanks, Sludge Digestion Tanks, and Drying Beds, Filter Beds and Pump House. It will then be able to purify and deal with a D.W.F. of 750,000 gallons as against the present D.W.F. of 500,000 gallons.

Samples of the "Final Effluent" and "Storm Water Effluent," have proved unsatisfactory from time to time, and pollution of the Loachbrook stream, resulting from direct entry of sewage from industry and properties in the Back Lane area continues.

Public Cleansing.

The collection and disposal of Butchers' offals and diseased meat has continued under existing arrangements and the weekly collection of pails and house refuse in the outlying Buglawton area has been maintained.

A total of 2,793 tons of house refuse has been collected and disposed of during the year.

The local Salvage Scheme is still in active operation, in accordance with instructions issued from time to time by the Ministry of Supply, and the total of salvage materials collected and sold during the year is follows :—

		Tons.	Cwts	Qrs.	lbs.	Value		
						£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	...	159	13	3	0	987	8	2
Rags	...	2	7	0	24	33	15	6
Kitchen Waste	...	94	0	1	0	216	5	6
Bones	...	0	6	1	1	5	4	10
Iron (scrap) and Metal	...	2	8	3	0	7	4	9
Total	...	258	16	0	25	£1,249	18	9

Closet Accommodation.

Number of conversions from pails to W.C. during 1949 ...	13
Number of conversions from waste water closets to W.C. during 1949	0
Number of pails situated in Clearance areas ...	35
Number of pails situated in areas where no sewer is available	143
Number of pails which can be converted into W.C. ...	114

Sanitary Inspection.

Three statutory notices were served by the Sanitary Inspector and one was complied with during the year. 56 written Preliminary notices were served and a number were complied with.

Rats & Mice (Destruction) Act, 1919. Infestation Order, 1943.

During the past twelve months the whole of the work under the above Act and Order has been carried out by the Borough Council. A Rodent Operative appointed by the Council carries out inspections and treatment of premises and his work is under the supervision of the Sanitary Inspector.

In co-operation with the Borough Surveyor inspections and treatment of Corporation refuse tips, sewers and water courses are carried out at regular intervals.

SECTION D.

Housing.

Many persons are living in insanitary accommodation and under conditions of serious overcrowding, a situation which constitutes a major problem facing the Corporation.

The following statistics will no doubt be of interest, and indicate that the present rate of building is far too small to enable demands to be satisfied.

Number of Council Houses erected during 1949	...	63
Applicants for Council Houses during year ending 31st December, 1949	...	627
Applicants having completed 12 months qualifying conditions during period 1st March to 31st December, 1950, to be added to Main List	...	211
TOTAL		<hr/> 838 <hr/>

Applicants rehoused, and applicants to be rehoused in new houses, or re-lets, January 1st to December 31st, 1950, approximately	...	81
Anticipated number of applicants still requiring rehousing, December 31st, 1950	...	757

The above figures do not take into account the number of applicants who may obtain other accommodation.

Occupied houses in confirmed Clearance Areas	...	33
Occupied houses in areas Represented but not Confirmed	...	48
Individual Houses occupied	...	1

Forty-two visits were made to premises in connection with the issuing of licences under the Control of Civil Building—Defence Regulation 56A.

SECTION E

*Inspection and Supervision of Foods.**Milk Supply.*

Number of visits paid to cowsheds	...	...	7
Number of visits paid to dairies...	...	...	8
Number producing "Accredited" Milk, six of whom are retailers	...	...	28
Number producing "Tuberculin Tested" Milk, four of whom are retailers	...	...	8
Number of licences issued to distributors of Pasteurised milk	...	...	1
Number of licences issued to dealers in respect of Tuberculin tested milk	...	...	8

Two informal notices were served with respect to cowsheds and three with respect to dairies. All of these notices were complied with.

Ice Cream.

During the year a great majority of the manufacturers have been using the cold mix method and owing to the absence of any uniform bacteriological standards for ice cream no samples have been taken regularly for analysis.

Meat and other Foods.

Total amount of meat destroyed	...	50,619 lbs.
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Approximately 25.5% of this meat was taken from casualty animals and the total weight destroyed includes all offals. Killing is done here not only for the Borough, but also for a large portion of the Congleton Rural District, and other districts.

*Meat Inspection.**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.*

	Cattle incl. Cows	Calves	Sheep & Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ...	1117	389	3294	63
Number inspected ...	1117	389	3294	63
All diseases except Tuberculosis.				
Whole Carcases condemned ...	11	19	8	7
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	233	30	111	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis ...	20.9%	12.62%	3.61%	12.6%
Tuberculosis only.				
Whole Carcases condemned ...	20	1	—	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned ...	533	1	—	15
Percentage of the number inspect- ed affected with Tuberculosis...	49.5%	.51%	—	26.9%

*SECTION F.**Prevalence of and Control over Infectious Diseases.*

The succeeding tables indicate the number of cases of infectious disease notified during the year, together with the number of cases admitted to hospital and the total number of deaths.

It is perhaps fortunate that there was only one case of Infantile Paralysis in view of the high incidence throughout the country during the summer months.

There was one death from Diphtheria.

*Tuberculosis.**New Cases and Mortality during 1949.*

Age Periods		New Cases				Mortality			
		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory		Respiratory		Non-Respiratory	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
Up to 1 yr.	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1-5	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
5-15	...	—	—	2	2	—	—	—	—
15-25	...	—	1	—	1	—	1	—	—
25-35	...	3	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
35-45	...	2	—	1	1	1	1	—	—
45-55	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
55-65	...	1	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
65 and over	...	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals	...	7	3	3	4	2	2	—	—

Notifications of Respiratory Tuberculosis, 1939-48.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Congleton M.B.	12	8	10	9	5	9	16	13	8	10	100
Cheshire Total	435	481	528	462	468	515	483	373	461	445	4651

Notifications of Non-Respiratory Tuberculosis, 1939-48.

	1939	1940	1941	1942	1943	1944	1945	1946	1947	1948	Total
Congleton M.B.	9	8	3	4	6	6	7	4	8	4	59
Cheshire Total	275	204	224	257	220	223	190	140	197	159	2089

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

Two Certificates have been granted during 1949 in respect of adequate means of escape in case of fire, under Section 34 of the Factories Act, 1937.

The following tables on the administration of the Factories Act, 1937, give details of inspections and cases where defects were found :—

1. **Inspection** for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises	Number on Register	No. of Inspect- ions	No. of Written Notices	No. of Occupiers Prosecuted
(1) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4, and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	17	559	—	—
(2) Factories not included in (1) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority ...	88	158	—	—
(3) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding out-workers premises) ...	—	—	—	—
Total ...	105	717	—	—

Cases in which Defects were found.

Particulars	Number of cases in which defects were		Number of cases in which defects were Referred		Number of cases in which prosecutions were instituted
	Found	Remedied	To H.M. Inspector	By H.M. Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness ...	—	—	—	—	—
Overcrowding ...	—	—	—	—	—
Unreasonable Temperature ...	—	—	—	—	—
Inadequate Ventilation ...	—	—	—	—	—
Ineffective drainage of floors	1	1	—	—	—
Sanitary Conveniences					
(a) insufficient ...	—	—	—	—	—
(b) Unsuitable or defective	1	1	—	—	—
(c) Not separate for sexes	—	—	—	—	—
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework) ...	—	—	—	—	—
Total ...	2	2	—	—	—

